

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 /026 W

-----117446 171105Z /11

P 171030Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5751

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1135

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINR, LY
SUBJECT: DIA INFORMATION REQUEST

REF: STATE 206258

1. RE LIBYA'S SEPTEMBER 1 CELEBRATION IN TRIPOLI, LOCAL PRESS SO FAR HAS ANNOUNCED ONLY THAT PREPARATIONS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED. BASED ON RECENT YEARS EXPERIENCE, THE DAY'S EVENTS WILL BEGIN LATE MORNING-EARLY AFTERNOON WITH SERIES OF AIR FORCE FLY-BYS, ENDING BEFORE DARKNESS. AT ABOUT 2000 HOURS, QADHAFI MAKES TRADITIONAL SPEECH IN TRIPOLI'S MAIN (MARTYRS) SQUARE, WHICH IS JAMMED WITH LOCAL SPECTATORS. FOLLOWING THE SPEECH, A MILITARY PARADE CONTINUES UNTIL EARLY HOURS OF SEPTEMBER 2. MARCHING UNITS AND VARIOUS ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT, WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED ALONG CORNICHE EAST OF MARTYR'S SQUARE STARTING MID-AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 1, EVENTUALLY PASS BY REVIEWING STAND, THEN MOVE ALONG UMAR MUKHTAR STREET TO DISPERSAL POINTS.

2. IN PREVIOUS YEARS, MILITARY PARADE AND AIR FORCE FLY-BYS HAVE INCLUDED SOME OF LIBYA'S LATEST EQUIPMENT ACQUISITIONS. THIS YEAR (IF THERE IS A CELEBRATION), FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MIG-25 (FOXBAT) AIRCRAFT WILL FLY OVER TRIPOLI AND T-72 TANKS (IF ANY YET IN LIBYAN INVENTORY) WILL BE INCLUDED FOR FIRST TIME IN
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MILITARY PROCESSION. IF PAST PATTERNS HOLD, THE DAYTIME FLY-BYS AND MIDNIGHT PARADE WILL BE THE ONLY MILITARY MANEUVERS OR DEMONSTRATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH SEPTEMBER 1 CELEBRATION IN TRIPOLI.

3. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLD ME TODAY (AUGUST 17) HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT EQUIPMENT THE LIBYANS WOULD PUT INTO

THEIR SEPTEMBER 1 DEMONSTRATIONS BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT
TO SEE ANYTHING EXCEPTIONAL.
EAGLETON

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